

The last portion of the book, that upon diseases of the nervous system, includes remarks upon poisoning by opium, cocaine, and nicotine, and a section upon congelation. The ordinary subjects of this department are, of course, contained in the work. The vastness of the subject and the limitations of the book make many of these latter articles rather sketchy.

Few tasks can be more difficult, with the constantly increasing amount of medical knowledge, than that of writing a text-book of medicine in a single volume without slighting any of the subjects contained in it.

Dr. Whittaker is an able writer and a careful worker, but his acknowledged method of approaching his subject is one-sided, and renders the book one which cannot be recommended to medical students or to physicians who wish to depend upon it as their chief guide. There is, too, a disposition shown to ignore statements of others which do not accord with the author's own views. For instance, no reference whatever is made to iron in the liver, or to the reddened marrow of the long bones as seen in pernicious anæmia. Then, too, it gives a wrong impression to say, *ex cathedra* and without a qualifying statement, that the chief cause of chlorosis is connected with some disturbance of ovulation, since this is far from being generally admitted.

Again, pseudo-leukæmia, which is described in nine lines, is not always believed to be "essentially the same" as leukæmia. Gout is described as though it were purely an affection of the joints, and no more than an implied reference is made to the various other ways in which it may affect the system. Phosphorus is referred to as though it were a certain, unfailing specific for rickets, and no allusion is made to the fact that this is a greatly disputed point, with certainly as much evidence against it as for it.

Yet the book is a good one, and we can heartily recommend it as a work of reference. Our criticisms are made in no censorious spirit, but because we feel that a text-book for students and younger practitioners should teach that which is most generally accepted rather than that which is more of an individual opinion. A little changing and filling in here and there in a second edition will make the volume all that can be desired.

C. G.

A HANDBOOK OF OPHTHALMIC SCIENCE AND PRACTICE. By HENRY E. JULER, F.R.C.S. With illustrations. Second edition. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1893.

MR. JULER'S *Handbook of Ophthalmic Science and Practice* has been well and favorably known since it appeared, about nine years ago. One of the marked features in the first edition of the work—its liberal number of illustrations—is continued and elaborated in the second with two hundred and one woodcuts, a number of chromo-lithographic plates, and twenty-four reproductions of photo-micrographs. A few of these—for example, Fig. 37, representing a corneal cicatrix—are fairly representative of the lesion which they are intended to illustrate; but many are of indifferent value. It is greatly to be regretted that handsome work in photo-micrography loses so much in reproduction, the chief fault

being the failure to portray detail of the structure. A student endeavoring to learn the histological appearances of the normal cornea from Fig. 30 would be possessed of ideas as hazy and indistinct as is the cut from which he would try to obtain them. It really seems, until we find a better method for reproducing photo-micrographs, that it would be more satisfactory to retain drawings, even if these were diagrammatic.

The new material in this second edition is considerable, amounting to nearly one hundred pages, and there is scarcely a subject which has escaped careful and satisfactory supervision. Occasionally, however, we are struck with the omission of certain interesting ophthalmic topics—for example, retinal changes as the result of direct sunlight, traumatic amblyopias, or retinal concussion, and the meagre consideration of toxic amblyopias, among which tobacco and alcohol are practically the only ones receiving attention, and even in these, although the clinical side is well represented, there is no description of the pathological anatomy of the affection or of the interesting relation of the bundles of the optic nerve, such as the papillo-macular fibres, to the development of variously-placed scotomas in the visual field.

Some liberty, probably the fault of proof-reading, is taken with the names of authors. Our own accomplished New York ophthalmologist, Dr. Weeks, appears as Weeks, and in the somewhat unwieldy name of Wickerkiewicz the last *c* is substituted by a *t*, while Schneller appears as Schwellner.

Affections of the eyelids, introduced with a good account of the anatomy and physiology of the palpebræ, is a satisfactory chapter in the main, although separation of the varieties of blepharitis into those which are eczematous, seborrhœic, etc., would be preferable to the consideration of the subject under one heading.

Diseases of the lacrymal apparatus are discussed in a brief chapter—too brief, perhaps, considering the stubborn character of many of the affections and their relation to intra-nasal surgery.

There is a good classification of inflammations of the conjunctiva, and under "granular lids" we find, in addition to the ordinary medicinal applications, some reference to the modern surgery, or rather, the modern modifications of surgery applicable to this disease. Darier's method is described and recommended as better than galvano-cautery applications, but there is no mention of Knapp's forceps, nor description of any of the varieties of the operation of expression. While it is true that pinguicula ordinarily causes no trouble or inconvenience, yet in the light of the researches of Fuchs, its relation to the development of pterygium, and the relation of this lesion to operations on the eye and to changes in the curvature of the cornea, should receive more direct mention.

Diseases of the cornea are well discussed, and with the exception of a failure to include the researches of modern times, particularly those of Leber, in regard to infectious keratitis, are clearly, easily, and practically considered. The optical treatment of conical cornea is referred to, but in this, as in other books, scarcely enough attention is paid to its value. In view of the experiences of Thomson and Wallace as to the improvement of visual acuity possible with strong sphero-cylindrical combinations in certain cases, it is well to impress the student that he should not lightly turn down a case of this kind as unsuited to optical therapeutics before, with shadow-test, ophthalmometer, and careful test-

ing with the trial lenses, he has endeavored to raise, as he often may, the visual acuity to an unexpected sharpness.

Diseases of the iris, ciliary body, and choroid, are considered in Chapter VI., and are well described, several new varieties of iritis receiving considerable attention. Sympathetic irritation and sympathetic ophthalmitis are very properly considered as separate affections, and the dangers attendant upon the last-named disease are fully impressed. Mr. Juler is not willing to commit himself to any theory of the mode of production of sympathetic disease, or the path of the morbid process. He believes that "the known facts about the occurrence of sympathetic ophthalmitis are hardly yet sufficient to establish a theory as to its mode of transmission." This chapter is illustrated by many useful chromolithographs and satisfactory woodcuts.

Chapter X., on color vision and its defects, is written by Mr. Adams Frost, and is an exceedingly satisfactory description of the subject, illustrated by a colored plate of the tests for color-blindness after Holmgren.

There is a good, well-illustrated chapter on the crystalline lens and its diseases. Mr. Juler adopts, in suitable cases, the following incision for extracting cataract: "The puncture and counter-puncture are made in the sclerotic at 1 mm. from the edge of the cornea and 3 mm. below its upper tangent; the knife is brought out through the sclerotic immediately above the cornea." Evidently a similar incision is practised in the operation without iridectomy, for we read: "The incision is made in the same way as in the former operation." Perhaps this accounts for his opinion of simple extraction, somewhat vaguely summed up in the following paragraph: "This is not the place to discuss the points in favor of or against such a procedure, beyond mentioning that optical results without iridectomy are decidedly better should the operation be successful; but the liability to anterior synechia, prolapse of the iris, involvement of iris in the cicatrix, with irido-cyclitis, is sufficient to raise doubts as to which is the better procedure." So, too, he prefers not to commit himself as to the propriety of instilling eserine before and after operations for cataract, being content to state that some surgeons instil it and some do not. Irrigation, or washing out of the anterior chamber is recommended when careful toilet of the wound has failed to rid the anterior chamber of the remains of lens-matter. The author's experience is that harm does not attend this practice and that its value cannot be doubted—this in spite of the fact that he uses boiled distilled water, although the researches of Mellinger have shown that even this fluid is capable of originating opacities in the corneal endothelium.

No one can accuse Mr. Juler of allowing undue liberty to his cataract cases: Both eyes are bandaged, the patient put to bed in a darkened room, and the bandage not permanently removed until the twelfth day. In combined extraction the eye, other things being equal, is first examined on the third or fourth day; in simple extraction, inspection of the eye is considered imperative on the morning after the operation, and if there is prolapse, immediate iridectomy, because he believes that delay is almost certain to result in plastic iritis, and the entanglement to lead to recurrent iritis and to danger of sympathetic ophthalmitis. It is interesting in this connection to recall Knapp's experiences: Prolapse, recognized within a few hours of its occurrence, is cut off; prolapse found after the third or fourth day is not touched; if small it may

disappear, if large no operation is done until the eye is quiet, when the protrusion is amputated, and usually prompt recovery follows.

Although it is evident that Mr. Juler appreciates the value of aseptic surgery in its relations to ophthalmic operations, it is to be regretted that he has omitted specific directions for the preparation of patients, instruments, collyria, and dressings.

The chapter on refraction of the eye is written conjointly with Mr. John Griffith. In the former edition Mr. Adams Frost assisted in this work. It is a good chapter. The illustrations are clear and to the point, and although we do not agree with Mr. Juler that mydriatics are unnecessary after the thirtieth year, this is one of the many questions in ophthalmology which remain for the future to settle. The old numeration of prisms alone is considered, and there is no description of the centrad, the prism dioptre, or the large amount of work which recent times, and especially American industry and intelligence, have brought to bear upon this subject. Dr. Stevens's nomenclature of the insufficiencies of the ocular muscles is referred to; esophoria and exophoria are described, but, curiously enough, there is no mention of hyperphoria, and, we are glad to say, none of the so-called graduated tenotomies. The ophthalmometer of Javal finds place, but the old model is figured and the description of its value as an aid in detecting astigmatism is not very clear or practical.

A few defects have been mentioned existing in this work which, taken all in all, is one of the best in the English language. Mr. Juler has produced a text-book which we feel sure is bound to continue to receive recognition and to go through other editions, each one of which will make it more perfect than the last. We heartily commend it, and congratulate the author and those who have been associated with him in the preparation of this second edition.

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A MANUAL OF DISEASES OF THE EAR. By GEORGE P. FIELD, M.R.C.S.,
Aural Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital, etc. Fourth edition. Philadelphia:
Lea Brothers & Co., 1893.

THIS compendious and well-illustrated volume of 371 pages is a natural follower and later development of the works of Toynbee and Hinton, well worthy of the popularity indicated by the exhaustion of the 3000 copies of the third edition. It shows pathological and literary research on the part of its author, not of the extreme sort which traces facts or statements beyond those citing them to their primary origin, especially if in untranslated German works; but the data are generally accurate and well enough authenticated, and it is refreshing to get away from the usual recurring quotation of German authorities. More important still is the distinct impression of the writer's personality in his frank statement of his own experience and his keen but ingenuous analysis of his facts. He plainly aims to furnish to others a guide from the teachings of his own practice rather than to construct a treatise of logical, but forced, completeness. This personal and British flavor of his book is not spoiled, as in some similar works, by evidence of insular prejudice and ignorance.